

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 864

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AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: TRIAL SUMMARY

1. ALMOST A MONTH AFTER THE LAST OF THE SUMMER TRIALS CONCLUDED ON SEPTEMBER 13 (ATHENS 7044), A NEW SERIES OF TRIALS BEGAN IN ATHENS ON OCTOBER 11. (A FEW SEPARATE TRIALS HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THESSALONIKI DURING THIS PERIOD WHICH THE CONSULATE GENERAL HAS REPORTED ON.) THE TRIAL WHICH BEGAN ON OCTOBER 11 CONCERNS FOUR ACCUSED INVOLVED IN THE APRIL 21, 1975 ATTACK ON THE EMBASSY. A SECOND TORTURERS' TRIAL BEGAN ON OCTOBER 13, AND THE TRIAL OF THOSE CHARGED FOR RESPONSIBILITY IN CONNECTION WITH THE EVENTS AT THE POLYTECHNION IN NOVEMBER 1973 BEGINS ON OCTOBER 16. NO DATE HAS BEEN SET AS YET FOR A POSSIBLE TRIAL OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE JULY 1974 COUP AGAINST PRESIDENT MAKARIOS IN CYPRUS.

2. ON OCTOBER 11, THE TRIAL COMMENCED BEFORE A THREE-MEMBER ATHENS COURT OF MISDEMEANORS OF FOUR RIOTERS (ATHENS 6912) AFFILIATED WITH THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST MOVEMENT OF GREECE (EKKE) WHO HAVE BEEN INDICTED FOR ACTS OF VIOLENCE ASSOCIATED WITH THE ATTACK ON OUR EMBASSY ON APRIL 21 OF THIS

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YEAR. (ONE OF THE ACCUSED - ANTHONY P. SCHULTZE - IS A

U.S. CITIZEN WHO HAS BEEN LIVING IN GREECE SINCE 1961 AND INTENDS TO APPLY FOR GREEK CITIZENSHIP.) THE SEPARATE TRIAL OF FOUR POLICE OFFICIALS WHO HAVE BEEN INDICTED ON CHARGES OF MALTREATING A DEMONSTRATOR DURING THOSE SAME APRIL 21 EVENTS HAS NOT YET BEGUN.

3. THE TRIAL OF 35-38 (THE NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS VARIES IN PRESS REPORTS) OFFICERS AND NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS - POPULARLY CALLED THE "SECOND TORTURERS' TRIAL" - BEGAN ON OCTOBER 13 BEFORE THE ATHENS STANDING COURT MARTIAL. TWELVE OF THESE DEFENDANTS HAVE ALREADY COMMENCED SERVING PRISON SENTENCES ON SIMILAR CHARGES FOLLOWING THE FIRST TORTURERS' TRIAL (ATHENS 7044). WHEREAS THE FIRST TRIAL WAS RESTRICTED TO MEMBERS OF THE GREEK MILITARY POLICE (ESA), THE CURRENT TRIAL ALSO INCLUDES DEFENDANTS FROM A NUMBER OF ARMY INSTALLATIONS THROUGHOUT THE ATTICA AREA (SURROUNDING ATHENS).

4. ALSO, THE CHARGES IN THE CURRENT TRIAL ARE BROADER THAN ALLEGATIONS ONLY ABOUT TORTURE AND INCLUDE ACCUSATIONS RELATING TO THE ABUSE OF POWER, UNCONSTITUTIONAL DETENTION, ABUSIVE TREATMENT OF SENIOR AND JUNIOR MILITARY PERSONNEL, INSULTING CONDUCT, ETC. SEVEN CHARGES OF TORTURE ARE ALSO INCLUDED, HOWEVER, LEADING FIGURES FROM THE FIRST TORTURE TRIAL WHO ARE ALSO DEFENDANTS IN THE CURRENT TRIAL INCLUDE HADJIZISSIS, THEOPHILOYANNAKOS, AND SPANOS.

5. ON OCTOBER 16, THE TRIAL OF THOSE CHARGED WITH THE BLODDY INCIDENTS CONNECTED WITH THE DISORDER OF NOVEMBER 1973 AT THE POLYTECHNION WILL BE HEARD BY A FIVE-MEMBER ATHENS COURT OF APPEALS WHICH WILL CONVENE AT KORYDALLOS PRISON. THIRTY-FOUR DEFENDANTS HAVE BEEN INDICTED IN CONNECTION WITH THIS CASE INCLUDING FORMER PRIME MINISTER PAPADOPOULOS, FORMER ESA CHIEF IOANNIDES AND FORMER COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE GREEK ARMED FORCES ZAGORIANAKOS (ATHENS 6067).
STEARNS

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